GO BOLDLY
December 2/4, 2011

CONNECT
In 2007, our elders and leaders sensed God calling us to reach a whole new generation of people and take a bold step of faith by replanting our church, making it what it is now, our Legacy Campus. Then, a year ago, after experiencing tremendous growth in just a few short years, we felt God leading us to go boldly once again—to expand our Legacy Campus and start a new campus in Fairview. This weekend, we celebrated the one-year anniversary of our Go Boldly campaign and discussed how God’s people step out in faith.

- What does it mean to be “bold”? Would you describe yourself as a bold person? Why or why not?

- Describe a time when you acted with great boldness. Why did you act this way? What did it require for you to leave your comfort zone?

ENGAGE
Read together the following passage:

Matthew 14:22-33

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

28 “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

29 “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”
Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

- Make some observations about what Jesus does in this passage. Why does Jesus act the way He does, both with sending out the disciples ahead of Him and with what He does on the water? What is He trying to show the disciples about Himself?

- Make some observations about how the disciples reacted in this passage. Why are they afraid? In what way does their fear make sense and in what way does it not make sense? Can you identify with their fears?

- How is Peter’s reaction both unexpected and completely appropriate? What does he ask Jesus and why do you think he asks it? How does Peter’s experience differ from those of the other disciples in this situation?

- From this passage, what can you deduce about faith? What does it require? How does God respond to it?

**RESPOND**

As your group seeks to respond to the scriptures and the message, consider the following questions:

- Although it’s easier to play it safe and stay in the boat, God invites us to go water-walking—to live bigger, to go boldly, to see His power displayed. When was the last time you went “water-walking,” where you really went boldly and saw God work powerfully? What was that step and what happened?

- How do you know when a step is bold instead of foolish? How can you seek wisdom in your faith steps?
How can you keep yourself from just making excuses not to act?

• If you have participated in the *Go Boldly* campaign over the past year, what has your experience been? How has it stretched you? If you haven’t, what things might you need to think about or discuss with someone as you consider participating?

• How can your group pursue bold faith this year? What would need to happen in order for this to become a key characteristic of your group?

**GO DEEPER**

If your group is looking for even more discussion on bold faith, take a look at these passages:

- 2 Corinthians 8:1-7
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-12
- Acts 1:8
- Acts 2:37-47

*Each week, this section will provide parenting-specific questions for you and your family. If you’d like more insights on parenting from our Next Generation team, consult Chase Oaks Church’s Parenting Blog at coocparenting.wordpress.com.*

Read Matthew 14:22-31 with your kids and ask them questions about it. Here are some suggestions:

• What do you think the disciples were thinking when they realized it was Jesus walking on the water?
• Why do you think Peter was the only one who tried to walk on the water?
• What can we learn from Peter that is a good lesson about faith?
• What can we learn from the disciples who sat in the boat?